

What is claims is:

1. In a system having a video screen energized according to a file of non-text display-generation data, a method for automatically translating a subset of said file of non-text display-generation data into text variables having values that represent characteristics of a desired one of said plurality of indicators, the method comprising:

acquiring said file of non-text display-generation data;
extracting groups of non-text data, representative of said plurality of indicators, respectively, from said file of non-text display-generation data;
translating said groups of non-text data into groups of text data;
identifying one of said groups of text data as corresponding to said desired indicator; and
converting the identified group of text data into a set of text variables having values representative of said characteristics of said desired indicator.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said video screen represents an interface that features a plurality of indicators and wherein the aspect of acquiring includes:

connecting to said interface;
submitting a request for predetermined arrangement of indicators on said video screen to said interface in response to which said file of non-text display-generation data will be produced; and
obtaining a copy of said file of non-text display-generation data.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the aspect of acquiring further includes: assuring, before submitting said request, that a cursor on said video screen is in a predetermined location on an input screen.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the aspect of assuring includes: obtaining a copy of a file of non-text display-generation data corresponding to said input screen;

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4 translating said file of non-text display-generation data corresponding to said
5 input screen into a file of text data;

6 determining coordinates of said cursor in said file of text data corresponding to
7 said input screen; and

8 toggling, if said coordinates of said cursor do not match said predetermined
9 location, said cursor to said predetermined location.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the aspect of extracting includes:
2 parsing each string of data in said file of non-text display-generation data that is
3 bounded at the beginning and at the end by predetermined data values to produce said
4 groups on non-text data.

1 6. The method of claim 5, wherein said predetermined data values represent
2 an escape character.

1 7. The method of claim 5, wherein the aspect of extracting further includes:
2 filtering data that do not represent characteristics of an indicator out of said
3 groups of non-text data.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein said non-text display data is hexadecimal
2 data and said text data is ASCII data, and said aspect of translating translates from said
3 hexadecimal data into said ASCII data.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the aspect of identifying includes:
2 retrieving a list of at least one trait that might be possessed by the identified
3 group of text data corresponding to said desired indicator; and
4 searching said groups of text data to find a match for one of the traits on said list.

1 10. The method of claim 9, wherein said trait is a coordinate combination on
2 said video screen for said desired indicator.

1 11. The method of claim 9, wherein the aspect of retrieving indexes a look-up
2 table (LUT).

1 12. The method according to claim 9, wherein, if no groups of data match a
2 trait on said list, then said text variables are each set to text string descriptive of there
3 being no such indicator displayed on said video screen.

1 13. The method of claim 1, wherein the aspect of converting includes:
2 recognizing ones of said text data representing an alphanumeric string to be
3 displayed on said video screen; and
4 setting one of said text variables to be said alphanumeric string.

1 14. The method of claim 1, wherein the aspect of converting includes:
2 recognizing ones of said text data representing a color to be displayed;
3 retrieving, as a function of the recognized ones of said text data, a color-
4 descriptive alphanumeric string describing said color to be displayed; and
5 setting one of said text variables to be said color-descriptive alphanumeric string.

1 15. The method of claim 14, wherein the aspect of retrieving said descriptive
2 alphanumeric text string indexes a look-up table (LUT).

1 16. The method of claim 14, wherein the aspect of retrieving further includes:
2 retrieving a version-number indicating a version of said interface; and
3 retrieving, as a function of said version-number and said color-descriptive text
4 string, a state-descriptive alphanumeric string descriptive of a state represented by said
5 color-descriptive string.

1 17. The method of claim 16, wherein the aspect of retrieving said
2 alphanumeric state-descriptive string indexes a look-up table (LUT).

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1 18. In a system having a video screen energized according to a file of non-text
2 display-generation data, a device for translating a subset of said non-text from said file of
3 display-generation data into text variables having values that represent characteristics of
4 a desired one of said plurality of indicators, the device comprising:

5 a programmed processor; and

6 a first interface, between said processor and said user interface, to acquire said
7 file of non-text display-generation data;

8 said programmed processor being operable to manipulate data in a second file,
9 said second file being one of said file of non-text display-generation data and a file
10 corresponding thereto, by

11 extracting groups of data, representative of said plurality of indicators,
12 respectively, from said second file;

13 identifying one of said groups as corresponding to said desired indicator;

14 and

15 converting the identified group into a set of text variables having values
16 representative of said characteristics of said desired indicator,

17 said programmed processor also being operable to translate non-text data into
18 groups of text data either before the aspect of extracting, before the aspect of identifying
19 or before the aspect of converting.

1 19. For use with a system having a video screen energized according to a file
2 of non-text display-generation data, a computer program embodied on a computer-
3 readable medium for automatically translating a subset of said non-text from said file of
4 display-generation data into text variables having values that represent characteristics of
5 a desired one of said plurality of indicators, the computer program embodied on a
6 computer-readable medium comprising:

7 an acquisition segment for acquiring said file of non-text display-generation data;

8 and

9 a manipulation segment for manipulating data in a second file of data, said
10 second file being one of said file of non-text display generation data and a file
11 corresponding thereto, by

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12 an extraction segment for extracting groups of data, representative of said
13 plurality of indicators, respectively, from said second file;

14 an identification segment for identifying one of said groups data as
15 corresponding to said desired indicator; and

16 a conversion segment for converting the identified group of data into a set
17 of text variables having values representative of said characteristics of said desired
18 indicator;

19 said manipulation segment further including a translation segment for translating
20 non-text data into text data either before interaction by said extraction segment, before
21 interaction by said identification segment or before interaction by said conversion
22 segment.

1 20. In a system having a video screen energized according to a file of non-text
2 display-generation data, a method for automatically translating a subset of said file of
3 non-text display-generation data into text variables having values that represent
4 characteristics of a desired one of said plurality of indicators, the method comprising:

5 acquiring a first file of non-text display-generation data;

6 manipulating data in a second file of data, said second file being one of said file
7 of non-text display generation data and a file corresponding thereto, by

8 extracting groups of data, representative of said plurality of indicators,
9 respectively, from said second file;

10 identifying one of said groups of data as corresponding to said desired
11 indicator; and

12 converting the identified group into a set of text variables having values
13 representative of said characteristics of said desired indicator;

14 said aspect of manipulating further including translating non-text data into text
15 data either before the aspect of extracting, before the aspect of identifying or before the
16 aspect of converting.

1 21. The method of claim 20, wherein the aspect of acquiring further includes:

2 assuring, before submitting said request, that a cursor on said video screen is in a
3 predetermined location on an input screen.

1 22. The method of claim 21, wherein the aspect of assuring includes:
2 obtaining a copy of a file of non-text display-generation data corresponding to
3 said input screen;
4 determining coordinates of said cursor in said file corresponding to said input
5 screen; and
6 toggling, if said coordinates of said cursor do not match said predetermined
7 location, said cursor to said predetermined location.

1 23. The method of claim 21, wherein said aspect of assuring includes
2 translating from non-text data into text data either before the aspect of determining or
3 before the aspect of toggling.

1 24. The method of claim 1, wherein the aspect of acquiring includes:
2 connecting to said interface;
3 submitting a request for predetermined arrangement of indicators on said video
4 screen to said interface in response to which said file of non-text display-generation data
5 will be produced; and
6 obtaining a copy of said file of non-text display-generation data.

1 25. The method of claim 1, wherein the aspect of extracting includes:
2 parsing said second file to produce said groups of non-text data, said data strings
3 being at least one of preceded and followed by predetermined data values.

1 26. The method of claim 25, wherein said predetermined data values
2 represent an escape character.

1 27. The method of claim 25, wherein the aspect of extracting further includes:
2 filtering data that do not represent characteristics of an indicator out of said
3 groups of data.

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1 28. The method of claim 20, wherein said non-text data is hexadecimal data
2 and said text data is ASCII data, and the aspect of translating translates from said
3 hexadecimal data into said ASCII data.

1 29. The method of claim 20, wherein the aspect of identifying includes:
2 retrieving a list of at least one trait that might be possessed by the identified
3 group of data corresponding to said desired indicator; and
4 searching said groups of data to find a match for one of the traits on said list.

1 30. The method of claim 29, wherein said trait is a coordinate combination on
2 said video screen for said desired indicator.

1 31. The method of claim 29, wherein the aspect of retrieving indexes a look-
2 up table (LUT).

1 32. The method according to claim 29, wherein, if no groups of data match a
2 trait on said list, then said text variables are each set to text string descriptive of there
3 being no such indicator displayed on said video screen.

1 33. The method of claim 20, wherein the aspect of converting includes:
2 recognizing ones of said data representing an alphanumeric string to be displayed
3 on said video screen; and
4 setting one of said text variables to be said alphanumeric string.

1 34. The method of claim 20, wherein the aspect of converting includes:
2 recognizing ones of said data representing a color to be displayed;
3 retrieving, as a function of the recognized ones of said data, a color-descriptive
4 alphanumeric string describing said color to be displayed; and
5 setting one of said text variables to be said color-descriptive alphanumeric string.

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1 35. The method of claim 34, wherein the aspect of retrieving said descriptive
2 alphanumeric string indexes a look-up table (LUT).

1 36. The method of claim 34, wherein the aspect of retrieving further includes:
2 retrieving a version-number indicating a version of said interface; and
3 retrieving, as a function of said version-number and said color-descriptive string,
4 a state-descriptive alphanumeric string descriptive of a state represented by said color-
5 descriptive string.

1 37. The method of claim 36, wherein the aspect of retrieving said
2 alphanumeric state-descriptive string indexes a look-up table (LUT).

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